

May 2021

Headwaters

NEWSLETTER OF THE
STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS

Stanislaus
Fly Fishers

A CHARTER
CLUB OF FLY
FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

MEMBER OF THE
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL OF FLY
FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Live Meeting

Tuesday,
May 11, 2021
Scout Hall
Riverbank, CA

Opens @ 6:00 pm

Masks are
mandatory indoors
by order of City of
Riverbank!

President's Message

Hey! Let's try an in person meeting. We have reserved the Scout Hall in Riverbank for our meeting on May 11th. The hall is located at 3017 High St. Riverbank. Physical directions: drive into Riverbank to the light at HWY 108 and First St., turn north towards the river, and then turn left on High. The hall is just down the street on the right. There are conditions we agreed to in order to use the hall. We must mask, do our best to distance, and we must abide by a headcount. Therefore, if you plan to attend, please RSVP to our email address,

webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org, or via our [Facebook page](#).

Unfortunately at this time, we haven't arranged a speaker, but we are still pursuing that. If you are willing to present or know of a speaker we can snag at this late date, please let us know ASAP. If we don't find a speaker, we will just socialize, share fishing stories, and discuss outings and plans for get togethers.

By the way, it's shad time. They are running! I had hoped to get to the American River and have a report for this newsletter, but I didn't make it. I hope to get up there next week. If any of you get out for shad, let us know how you do.

Well, that's all I know right now so stay well and go fishing!

~ Jim

Important: RSVPs are required for this meeting to help us meet City of Riverbank requirements. RSVP at the links above.

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$40 per year for members.

Members must also join Fly Fishers International. Dues for the IFF vary, but do not exceed \$35 for a single, one-year membership.



Like us on Facebook 

We're on the Web!



Club News

May Meeting - May 11, 2021
6:00 pm - Scout Hall
3017 High St., Riverbank

Program to be Determined

SFF Bootcamp: Sisters on the Fly

On the weekend on April 30-May 1, 2021, board members of the SFF presented a 2-day bootcamp on beginning fly fishing for 20 members of Sisters on the Fly, an international organization that offers "empowerment and sisterhood through exceptional outdoor adventures."

We were contacted a year ago about the possibility of presenting something of this nature, but with the Covid crisis we were obviously unable to put anything together until this year. Local SotF member and organizer Janice Rinehart kept up a persistent interest in the project and so we were finally able to get tiger ball rolling.

The ladies camped at the Mother Lode Fairgrounds in Sonora, and Jim Bowen, Gus Link, Dennis Stambaugh, Bob Bullock, and Mike Hewitt spent Friday with them teaching the basics of fly casting, some knot tying and simple entomology, basic gear, as well as answering any other questions they had, as well as sharing our personal fly fishing experiences. The group was very enthusiastic and eager to absorb as much information as possible.

On Saturday the group met at Kistler Ranch to "get their feet wet" and gain some on-the-water casting experience. While no fish were caught, they were knee-deep in trying their best to apply what they had learned. All SFF members from Friday (except Jim who had a previous commitment) returned to assist the ladies at Kistler.

Each of the ladies were supplied a small fly box with an assortment of flies. Many thanks to Bud Heintz for the fly boxes and his donation of flies, as well as thanks to Pat Roe and Jeff Bakker for their fly donations. The ladies were thrilled to get them. Pictures [here](#).

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2021 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen
Vice-President – Gus Link
Treasurer/Membership –
Dennis Stambaugh
Secretary/Webmaster –
Michael Hewitt
Outings – Bob Bullock
Raffles – Jim Goodwin
At-Large – Bud Heintz
At-Large – Jeff Bakker
At-Large – Pat Roe

In-person board meetings are currently suspended until Covid protocols have determined it is safe to resume them.

Club News (cont.)



Caltrans District 10

MOUNTAIN PASS UPDATE

District 10 expected to open State Route 108/Sonora Pass at noon May 6, 2021.

Crews have worked diligently to remove snow, debris and repair the roadway to help ensure motorists' safety. We thank them and District 9 for their efforts and wish you safe travel!



Yosemite National Park

Reservations are not required to drive into Yosemite through May 20. Reservations are required beginning May 21. Some services and facilities are limited, and shuttles are not operating.

The Fly Box "Craig Mathews' Sparkle Dun"

Okay ... it's confession time. I let the month get away from me while working on other projects and failed to get a write-up on a fly for this month. So I reached out to SFF member Jeff Bakker for a recommendation for a fly on one of his (and others') favorite waters, the Little Truckee. His suggestion was the Mathews Sparkle Dun, and he recalled our resident president Jim Bowen having a picture on our website of an LT fish caught on one. A little digging and I came up with the photo. The In the Riffle YouTube page has a nice tutorial on the fly along with this description: "The Sparkle Dun is a great dry fly emerger developed by Craig Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies. The Z-lon for the tail imitates the emerging insect's shuck. This is a vulnerable stage for any insect and hungry trout know that! The Sparkle Dun in this video has been tied in a Blue Winged Olive color, but the Sparkle Dun can also be tied in PMD, Trico, Drake and Callibaetis colors." Jeff recommended it in a size 18-20 in dark olive for the LT. Video instructions can be found [here](#).

Sparkle Dun Fly Tying Recipe:
Hook: #12-20 Daiichi 1180
Thread: Olive Veevus 10/0
Tail: Olive Z-Lon or Sparkle Yarn
Body: Olive Brown Hareline Dubbing
Wing: Natural Comparadun Hair
Head: Olive Brown Hareline Dubbing



Got a favorite fly you'd like to share? [Contact me](#) with a brief description and we'll feature it!

Upcoming Outings and Events

Davis Lake Outing – June, 2021: Details TBA

Lake Crowley Outing – July, 2021: Details TBA

Little Truckee Outing – October, 2021: Details TBA

Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2021 are due now due and payable. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues for an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction. All SFF memberships are “Family Membership” status; spouses, significant others, and/or children must also be FFI members to be official SFF members. FFI General Memberships include you, your spouse or co-habiting partner, and children under 18.

Reminder: Club dues *DO NOT* include FFI dues. FFI dues are paid directly to the FFI and must be maintained regularly since the SFF is an FFI Charter Club. If you are not an FFI Life Member, or do not pay for three years at a time, **you must renew your membership yearly!** **Remember to list the Stanislaus Fly Fishers as your *Affiliated Club*.** This is important due to our Charter Club status. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

FFI Membership [Application](#)

Comics

BENNY and BOONE.com



Conservation Notes

This is an interesting editorial regarding the state of water in California. Something to ponder, at any rate. Shared by Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director, Tuolumne River Trust.

There is no drought ...

Los Angeles Times - May 6, 2021 - The Times Editorial Board

If 'drought' means a period of dry years followed by a return to the norm, California is not in drought. The current climate is the norm.

Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a drought emergency last month in Sonoma and Mendocino counties because of severe drop-offs in the winter rains that once had been counted on to fill reservoirs in the Russian River watershed, north of the San Francisco Bay Area. Like most other California reservoirs, those human-made lakes were built in the 20th century, an unusually wet period when compared with more than a thousand years of climate records reconstructed from studies of ancient tree rings and geological evidence.

The two formerly verdant counties were among the state's hardest-hit regions in last year's record-setting wildfire season that included the August Complex fires, which erupted not just because of years of intensifying summer heat drying out the trees and the ground beneath them but also, ironically, because of fierce summer storms and accompanying lightning. The August Complex followed the 2019 Kincadee fire, which burned much of Sonoma County, and the 2018 Mendocino Complex fires, which at the time made up the state's largest recorded wildfire incident. Before that was the 2017 Tubbs fire, which destroyed significant portions of Santa Rosa — following California's wettest year on record. So much rain fell that winter that the ground could not absorb it all, yet the summer was so hot that it desiccated the forests.

Average out the sporadic flood years with the succession of dry ones and the numbers will tell you that California is getting as much precipitation as ever. There is no drought — not if drought means a decrease in total rainfall.

But we legislated and plumbed this state for a different climate pattern, when annual winter rains reliably fell on Sonoma and points north, and a full Sierra snowpack reliably melted through the spring and summer to feed streams and irrigate orchards and farm fields. That era is long gone. The snowpack comes unpredictably, because a warmer climate means water that formerly stayed in the mountains as snow through the summer now melts sooner, or falls as rain and rushes westward to the sea in the winter, when we need it the least. A quick look at any satellite photo from a heavy-snow year reveals that no number of new dams could ever replace the snowpack's formerly reliable volume. More 20th century infrastructure, lawmaking and emergency declarations won't get us through this drought — because this is no drought.

Droughts come for a year, or two, or even 10 — and then end. Seasonal crops are fallowed, lawns are ripped out, car washing stops — and then life, lawns, crops and car washing all return to the way they were before.

That's not what we've got. Drought does not erase the coastal fog that once was commonplace in the Bay Area, or suck all moisture from the ground even after flood winters the way it has done not just in Sonoma and Mendocino but also in Topanga, Malibu and the Santa Susana Mountains, as was the case before 2018's Woolsey fire. Droughts are deviations from the norm. What we have now is no deviation. It is the norm itself. Our climate has changed. As much water falls from the sky as before, but at different times and in different ways.

A drought declaration suspends existing rules governing storage, transport and quality of water, but the details matter. In Sonoma and Mendocino, Newsom's declaration means more water can be kept in reservoirs instead of being delivered to farmers who grow wine grapes and other crops. But Central Valley lawmakers are hopping mad that the governor didn't declare drought statewide, because they want the rules bent to allow the opposite — more water from reservoirs to grow their crops, less for urban residents and migrating fish.

They argue that an emergency order will help with "this challenging, but temporary, situation," and that in the meantime, some of California's unexpected billions in revenue should be used to keep agricultural operations going through the "drought." But no — this is no drought, there is no "temporary" situation, and one-time money should not be spent to keep operations at unsustainable former levels. Money spent on programs or infrastructure that does not reflect new climate patterns or help water users adapt to them is money wasted.

More agricultural acreage should be fallowed, and less water diverted from dried-out rivers and streams for unsustainable vineyards and orchards. Floodplains should be restored, so that in wet winters the excess water that once might have been frozen on mountainsides but now rushes downhill as flash floods can gather, settle and seep into the ground over the dry springs, summers and falls, and in the meantime sustain birds and spawning fish whose ancient marshes and wetlands we have drained. Urban areas, once they use their water, must purify it and use it again, because imports from distant places will be less certain, and it is foolish to keep flushing all that useful water away.

Yet we still need linkages among California's many regions. That's one lesson from Sonoma and Mendocino, which have no water connections to wetter areas, and Los Angeles, which does. Some transfers must be actual water, but many can be on paper — transfers of contractual water rights, for example.

There is no drought. That phrase is sometimes used to deny the epic and obvious change in our climate patterns, but that's all wrong. Just as there is no temporary drought in the Sahara, where heat and dryness punctuated by flash flooding is the norm, there is no temporary drought in California. The years of steady and predictable water flow are over, and there is no sign of them coming back in our lifetimes. This is it. We have to build, and grow, and legislate, and consume for the world as it is, not as we may remember it.

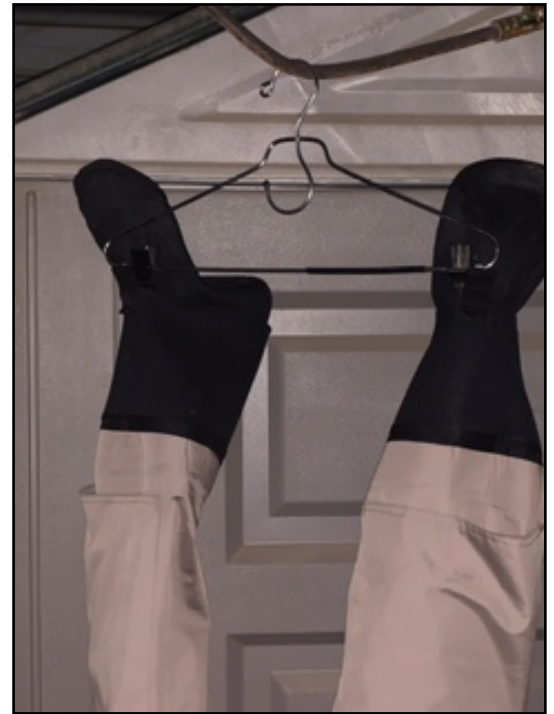
Tips and Tricks

Club member Barry Newlin came up with an idea for an additional newsletter feature and offered this:

“Ever thought of a "tips 'n tricks" feature? Kinda show and tell, DIY stuff? Most may be old hat to veterans, but could be beneficial to newbies (or Newlie's?).

For instance: How do you hang your waders to dry? I have been hanging them by the suspenders, but that seemed to stretch them out, and I worried about nasties or critters falling into them 🤢. So I thought... what about hanging them upside down by the little hooks of the gaiters onto a stout clothes hanger? I remember all the waders draped over the deck rails at Crosby's.

Anyone else do it that way? Just a thought ...



More Club News - Raffle



9ft 9wt Powell Tiburon II/Tioga Teton



9ft 3wt Powell LGA/Tioga Trinity

We are currently raffling two E.C. Powell rods with Teton reels that were donated to our club by Philip Hawkins, the Atwater school teacher whose students were doing a salmon release back in February of 2020 and invited our club members to attend and provide casting and fly tying instruction. The first is a Powell Tiburon 9ft 9wt with a Teton Tioga reel and includes Gus Link custom-sewn rod sack and reel pouch. The second is a Powell LGA 9ft 3wt with a Teton Trinity reel and also includes custom-sewn rod sack and reel pouch from Gus Link. We are selling playing cards, one deck for each rod combo, for \$5.00 each. The raffle drawing will be held when either the decks have sold out or at our December 2021 meeting, whichever comes first. Proceeds will be used to help fund speakers for our general meetings. Many thanks to Philip for his donation to our club.

More Club News - Outings

Sisters on the Fly - Fly Fishing Bootcamp



Some of the action on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at Kistler Ranch ponds. In spite of the heat and a bit of wind, the participants were eager to try out what they learned on Friday. I'm not sure who had more fun though ... the ladies or the men who were coaching them. It was great having so many enthusiastic students that really seemed excited to learn about fly fishing, and sharing our love for the sport and passing along the wisdom of experience made the weekend enjoyable for the teachers as well.

